Invitation to the "Data Base of Japanese Shōen (莊園)"

FUKUDA Toyohiko

The aim of the "Data Base of Japanese Shōen" is to collect principal information on "Shōen" all over Japan, and to make possible the retrieval and display of data in a short time by computer. The "Shōen" dealt with in the data base include Shō, En, Mikuriya, Maki, Hō, Beppu, and so on, and their ages are not limited to the Medieval Age. Listed "principal information" include 19 items such as name of province, name of district, principal historical source, first year seen in historical materials, supposed location, and so on.

At first, data were accumulated as a "Shōen Data Base" run on a personal computer, and collectively sent to the host computer in the National Museum of Japanese History so that they may be published as "Data Base of Japanese Shōen". After completion of the data base, data may be retrieved and supplied through telephone lines, and may be also used for exhibitions. The preparation work started in 1987, and input of the "Data Base of Shōen" was by and large finished in 1990. At present, modification work is under way, while the data base is being used experimentally. It is scheduled to be completed in 1993. The total number of "Shōen" stored in this data base stands at 7,947 at present, and will amount to 8,500 on completion in 1993. The number of Shōen included in the "Shōen Shiryo" (=Documents on Shōen) edited by SHIMIZU Masataka is 5,823.